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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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HEALTH
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

May 22, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Trump,

In light of the hurdles our nation's small businesses face due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I urge you to utilize the Defense Production Act (DPA) to the fullest extent possible in an effort to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer, and other necessary supplies specifically to aid small businesses in reopening. The federal government must meet the needs of these small business owners, particularly due to the great sacrifices they've made, and continue to make, to survive this public health and economic crisis.

Hundreds of businesses in South Brooklyn, on Staten Island, and all across the country are preparing to reopen, they must meet their state and local government guidance on procuring face masks for their employees. This requirement makes sense, especially in New York City where as of May 21, New Yorkers account for at least 191,650 positive cases of COVID-19, and have tragically seen over 16,000 New Yorkers die due to the pandemic. However, the burden must not be placed squarely on the shoulders of the small business owners who are already struggling to make ends meet and stay afloat. And while New York City is gathering a stockpile of PPE to address the needs of our first responders, as well as our public and private medical systems, our local businesses must be a part of any coordinated response. Utilizing the DPA to support small businesses is the perfect opportunity to show the federal government's commitment to fully restarting our economy, while maintaining public health standards.

We have seen your Administration utilize the DPA to save industries in crisis, and the same playbook should be followed for our most vulnerable small businesses. To incentivize consumers to patronize our small businesses, the backbone of our economy, I urge your Administration to act with-urgency. We must not mistake the lowered metrics we've seen across New York City for an excuse to be lax in our federal support--we are still at war, and this

pandemic still threatens the life and livelihoods of thousands of my constituents. I am confident that the Administration can act accordingly to protect these pillars of our community.

As businesses in New York City prepare to reopen, we must ensure a seamless transition that puts no additional financial burdens on business owners--many are only hanging on by a thread as it is. I urge you to work with state and local leaders on this important matter to utilize the DPA for small businesses now, and I stand ready and willing to work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends to the right.

Max Rose
Member of Congress